



## Aruba's Kamer van Koophandel celebrates five years in their new location

It was five years ago, on August 20, 2002 that the staff and records of Aruba's Kamer van Koophandel (Chamber of Commerce or KvK) moved from Oranjestad into the modernistic building across from the Tamarijn Resort. The architectural firm of Habibe and Maia designed the building, and its appearance was appropriate, as the move marked the modernization and updating of the internal workings of the KvK as well.

On Monday afternoon, the executive staff, led by Edwin Roos and Director Lorraine de Souza welcomed press members to an informal celebration, which included a presentation of an overview of the KVK, including its purpose and accomplishments of the past years.

Staff members, including Laureen Dix and Wina Monsanto explained how the KvK was founded over seventy-five years ago to assist business people in properly registering and conducting their business in accordance with island laws. Their presentation was a reminder that their main purpose is to assist individuals and companies in the establishment of their business, but to also to assist the community in conducting business prosperously. This year there were a number of initiatives, including assisting Aruban companies to take part in a regional commercial fair being conducted in Colombia.

After the presentation, Ms. De Sousa provided a tour of the facilities, which includes an auditorium that is available to businesses for presentations, and adjacent meeting rooms.

Mr. Roos informed the gathering that their new headquarters has allowed the KvK to realize changes in their internal structure that allows it to serve the public more efficiently. The fifth anniversary was an opportunity to look back on the great strides they have made since moving into the new building, and also to reflect on what they wish to accomplish for the community in the coming years. He expressed the hope of the staff that the government would turn to the independent organization and take advantage of their knowledge and expertise when planning laws and regulations that will affect doing business in Aruba. The KvK is not only their to provide a way keep track of commerce on the island, but has a vision for the future of doing business in Aruba, which needs planning and cohesion to help it advance.

The staff of THE NEWS offers congratulations to the KvK on five years of advancement in their new location.